Turning colder, with frost, ice and snow

8 March 2013 - After a very mild start to the week, Met Office forecasters are predicting a return of colder weather as we head over the weekend.

By Saturday, we will see a return of easterly winds which will bring in much colder air from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Yellow warnings are in force for snow across parts of the Midlands and northern England. Up to 10 cm could fall over the Pennines with smaller accumulations possible at lower levels across parts of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the Midlands. A few lingering snow showers are possible on Sunday too, and brisk easterly winds will make it feel very cold indeed.

By the early hours of Monday morning, an area of low pressure to the south of the UK may give further snow, with warnings in force across parts of southern England. It will remain bitterly cold with a strong easterly wind and most of the UK seeing daytime highs in low single figures. There will also be frost and ice by night.

Eddy Carroll, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "It is not unusual to see such dramatic swings in the weather during March, and people should be prepared for some very cold conditions to take charge over the weekend.

"With snow and ice in the forecast, people should also be aware that there could be disruption to travel and keep up-to-date with the latest warnings."

Cold weather looks set to continue throughout much of the rest of next week with winds turning northerly. It should be drier though, and there should be a little more in the way of sunshine too.

Steve Crosthwaite, head of the Highways Agency National Traffic Operations Centre, said: "Last week's milder weather only gave our fleet a couple of days off and you can expect to see the salt spreaders out in at least some places over the weekend.

"Our advice as always is to check the weather and traffic before you travel and make sure you and your vehicle are prepared. Leave a little extra time for your journey and always drive according to the conditions."

As always, the Met Office will be working with different agencies to keep Britain on the move, and to keep people safe and well during periods of prolonged cold weather. To stay weather aware, the latest forecasts and warnings can be found online, through our mobile apps and through TV and radio broadcasts.

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Last updated: 10 March 2013